

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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**FOUR ILLEGAL ALIENS SENTENCED FOR FALSELY CLAIMING TO BE UNITED
STATES CITIZENS TO GAIN EMPLOYMENT**

– Each used a social security card of a U.S. citizen to gain employment

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **DOMINGO ALVAREZ-CIPRIAN a/k/a CHRISTIAN VILLAFANE-MAYA**, age 19; **NICOLAS CIPRIAN-CORTES a/k/a EDMUNDO TARANGO, JR. a/k/a ELIVALDO GALVES-LOPEZ**, age 29; **GREGORIO LARIOS-GOMEZ a/k/a MIGUEL DE LEON SOTO**, age 24; and **JOSE RAMOS-JOSE a/k/a ANGEL D. ROBLES-ALDARONDO**, age 20, all Guatemalan nationals, **were sentenced** in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for falsely representing themselves to be U.S. citizens to secure employment at the Swift & Company meat processing plant in Louisville, Kentucky. Each defendant is subject to deportation after serving their respective sentence.

John G. Heyburn, II, Chief Judge, United States District Court, sentenced each defendant to 5 months incarceration, plus 3 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (BICE) investigation revealed that each defendant had unlawfully possessed and used a social security card, issued to another

individual, with the intent to falsely represent himself as a U.S. citizen, when they applied for a job with Swift & Company in Louisville, Kentucky. Specifically, during the hiring process at Swift & Company, each defendant knowingly and intentionally checked the box on the I-9 employee verification form indicating that they were a “citizen or national of the United States.” Each defendant checked this box, knowing that they were not citizens of the United States, but rather citizens of Guatemala. Three of the defendants lived in Shelbyville and one lived in Taylorsville, Kentucky. One defendant, **Nicolas Ciprian-Cortez**, had illegally entered the United States after he had been previously deported from the United States in June 2002.

All four defendants pled guilty and admitted to the charges against them. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel P. Kinnicutt and was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE).

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